

Minutes from the eighth meeting of WeCAN held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on October 22, 2008 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 896-5452 if you have any questions. -TB

October 22, 2008

Agenda

- I. Announcements
- II. Smoking Ban
- III. Sale of Fireworks
- IV. Trash/Recycling Bid Results
- V. Inquiry - Multi-use connectivity pathways

I. Announcements

The next WeCAN Meeting will be Tuesday, November 18.

School Start Times Possibly Changing

Jon Helms provided information regarding the October 20th Public Hearing.

The district is looking to change the start times of the schools to accomplish two goals.

First, put the 5th & 6th grade students on the elementary bus rather than the high school bus. Second, research indicates best learning times for elementary students is better in the morning and older kids function better in the later part of the day.

Check out Dr. Keen's blog on the district website: <http://blogs.wws.k12.in.us/keenm/> for more information on the school start times issue.

Survey of Neighborhood Hubs

Chief Jowitt explained the importance of the Neighborhood Hub Survey in that it will be used in the event of a communications failure to get information disseminated to residents as well as to get information back to city officials. The survey contains some guidelines to follow. Please fill out the [Neighborhood Hub Survey](#) that posted on the WeCAN site.

Solicitor's Permit Information

[Solicitor's Permit information](#) is available on the WeCAN site. For clarification from the September 30 meeting, non-profits located in Hamilton County are exempt from obtaining a solicitor's permit.

Also for clarification, any mailable matter no bearing postage that is placed upon, supported by, attached to, hung from, or inserted into the mail receptacle is subject to the same postage as would be paid if it were carried by mail. Title 18 United States Code, section 1725, provides for a fine of not more than \$300 per piece for these violations. [Click here for more information.](#)

II. Smoking Ban

- Received 5 surveys representing 115 people
Overall
- 80% smoke free in Most workplaces, Restaurants, Parks, All public places, Recreation facilities, Outside entrances, Enclosed spaces, Everywhere except residential homes
- 40% smoke free in Bars
- 60% smoke free in All Public Facilities except those that serve only adults (bars, etc)

We need more information. From the discussions, many of the neighborhoods don't have an easy way to get direct input from each member of their community. [SurveyMonkey](#) is free online survey tool that anyone can set up, although it does limit the number of responses and will not work citywide for this survey. WeCAN brainstormed ways to reach every resident. A referendum was proposed but it would not work because it is too expensive. The solution that is the most feasible is to include the following as an insert in the water/sewer bills: instructions to access the survey online as well as establish that paper copies can be picked up at City Hall and the City Services Center. I will work to implement the survey. I have disabled the suveymonkey online survey originally created because we will now survey individually citywide.

III. Sale of Fireworks

Greg Anderson, Director of the Community Development Department gave a presentation on the sale of fireworks. The PowerPoint offered the following question: Should the City

1. Not allow firework sales of any type within the City / Township limits?
2. Keep the Status Quo by only allowing for the sale within department stores?
3. Allow for the sale of fireworks based upon an established set of regulations and permitting requirements?

Please click here for the complete [presentation](#). The general consensus at the WeCAN Meeting was that the City should choose either 1. or 3. I will also develop a survey for this issue that will be implemented the same way as the Smoking Ban Survey (online or on paper distributed via City utility billing).

It was also suggested that we visit the use/discharge of fireworks as a WeCAN agenda item for November 18. It was also pointed out that fireworks cause a social cost to the city in terms of the safety of the residents and debris left by the fireworks.

IV. Trash/Recycling Bid Results

Please see the [Trash/Recycling Bid Results](#) that are linked on the WeCAN site. For weekly trash and weekly recycling pick-up, the bids came in at \$10.25 for Ray's, \$14.62 for Republic, and \$16.20 for Waste Management. The fees are per month per household. Per the trash/recycling ordinance adopted on September 8, an administrative fee would be added to the total to recoup administrative costs associated with management and billing of the trash service. The fee will not exceed \$1 per month per household. Per a hand vote, the decision to make a recommendation in favor of moving forward with a citywide trash/recycling service was almost unanimous at 17-1. City Council will make a decision on Monday, October 27. Many of you have attended several WeCAN Meetings and are familiar with the trash/recycling issue; you are encouraged to fill out the request to speak cards available by the door when you walk into the Assembly Room.

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V. Inquiry of Future Topics

Multi-use connectivity pathways is another subject of interest. Please email me any areas that you can identify as having missing sidewalk or trails along the outside of your neighborhood or anywhere in the City. Ones that connect to neighborhood destinations are especially of interest.

Reminders:

The next WeCAN meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18.

Westfield In Bloom, the City and Neighborhood Beautification Project, will have its first meeting on Wednesday, **October 29** at 7pm at the City Services Center. Please contact Melody Sweat msweat@westfield.in.gov if you are interested.

If you have questions/suggestions, please email Tammy at tblackburn@westfield.in.gov.

Thank you!